



Berlin Restorative Justice

"A rehabilitative initiative through collaboration"

135 Green Street

Berlin, NH 03570

PH: 603-752-3131 FX: 603-752-8207

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Program Coordinator

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a way of looking at crime that focuses on repairing the harm to the victim. Through the process, youth offenders are held accountable, develop empathy for the victim, and make amends. Communities support the victims, and hold the offender accountable while encouraging personal growth. This process takes place with the understanding that community ownership of youth development is a cornerstone of a healthy community.

Guiding Principles

The restorative process promotes dialogue between stakeholders through a community panel to discuss consequences of the crime, harm to the victim, and to direct needed action by the offender. The process shifts the role of victim from passive witness to active participant whose voice is heard in restoring justice. The learning experiences are powerful for the offender as they move from passive avoidance to active participant. This includes an accountability process designed to promote behavioral change.

Desired outcomes for youth include development of healthy attitudes, empathy for victims, responsibility for personal actions, respect for self and others, and personal connections to community that promotes a lasting change in behavior.

Restorative programs are characterized by three key values:

1. **Encounter**: Create opportunities for victims, offenders and community members who want to do so to meet to discuss the crime and its aftermath
2. **Amends**: Expect offenders to take steps to repair the harm they have caused
3. **Inclusion**: Provide opportunities for parties with a stake in a specific crime to participate in its resolution

How the Program Works

The youth offender meets with the program coordinator and the reparative board who determines an appropriate outcome for the offender. The youth understands that the process is designed to promote accountability and healing. They accept responsibility for their crime by agreeing to enter into an agreement with the program coordinator or outlines the steps that need to be taken to repair the harm done.



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